

EXPLOITATION OF NULL PACKETS IN
PACKETIZED DIGITAL TELEVISION SYSTEMS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system and method for adding auxiliary data D_A to an output data stream from a
statistical multiplexer is disclosed. An auxiliary multiplexer accepts a statistically
multiplexed data stream, and substitutes auxiliary data packets for null data packets. The
auxiliary multiplexer controls the number of null packets in the statistically multiplexed
data stream by controlling the target bandwidth B_T of the statistical multiplexer, or by
10 modifying the statistical multiplexer equation to make the auxiliary data stream a
participant in the negotiation process of allocating throughput among the data sources.